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Nationwide to Lower Auto and Homeowner Rates in West Virginia

Customers to see civil justice reform savings in August

Columbus, Ohio — Nationwide Insurance has announced it will be refiling recently approved homeowner rates in West Virginia due to civil justice reforms passed by the West Virginia legislature and signed into law by Governor Joe Manchin last month. The company is also lowering auto rates as a result of the new legislation.

The net result will be a 2.3 percent decrease in West Virginia homeowner rates from a filing recently approved by the state. The \$2 million dollar change will begin affecting Nationwide's West Virginia homeowner policyholders on August 6, 2005.

"Nationwide has a long, proud tradition of serving the people of West Virginia," said Amy Shore, Nationwide's regional vice president for Ohio and West Virginia. "We have remained committed to this market for many years, even in the tough times, and are confident the recently enacted reform measures will have a long-term, positive benefit for residents across the state. Governor Joe Manchin and members of the legislature are to be commended for their action on this far reaching legislation."

In addition to the homeowner rate savings, Nationwide is also reducing personal auto premiums for customers written in the Nationwide Mutual and Nationwide Property and Casualty Insurance Companies. Bodily injury rates will be reduced by \$6 million, resulting in an average savings of \$46 per customer on upcoming six-month renewals. This rate reduction will become effective for new and existing customers in August. Additionally, Nationwide has committed to an additional \$4 million in auto rate reductions for West Virginians to be filed in 2006.

Nationwide is the second largest property and casualty insurer in West Virginia, with 119 agents and 220 sales locations statewide.

Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the world, with more than \$157 billion in assets. Nationwide ranks 99th on the Fortune 100 list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, homeowners, life, health, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mutual funds, pensions and long-term savings plans. For more information, visit www.nationwide.com.

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